

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/008218

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

As stated on (extra sheet), there must exist a special technical feature so linking a group of inventions of claims as to form a single general inventive concept in order that the group of inventions may satisfy the requirement of unity of invention. The international application is considered to contain four inventions: the invention of claims [1-3, 7]; the invention of claims [4-6]; the invention of claims [8, 9, 11, 13]; and the invention of claims [10, 12].

(Continued to extra sheet)

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet(2)

There must exist a special technical feature so linking a group of inventions of claims as to form a single general inventive concept in order that the group of inventions may satisfy the requirement of unity of invention. The group of inventions of claims 1-13 is linked only by the technical feature defined in claim 1.

This technical feature, however, cannot be a special technical feature since it is disclosed in prior art documents such as JP 2002-359293 A (Toshiba Corp.), 13 December, 2002 (13.12.02), Par. Nos. [0097] to [0113], JP 8-264764 A (Toshiba Corp.), 11 October, 1996 (11.10.96), claims and Fig. 18, and JP 7-249768 A (Toshiba Corp.), 26 September, 1995 (26.09.95), Par. No. [0034] and Fig. 1.

Consequently, there is no special technical feature so linking the group of inventions of claims 1-13 as to form a single general inventive concept. Therefore, it appears that the group of inventions of claims 1-13 does not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

Next, the number of groups of inventions defined in the claims of this international application and so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, namely, the number of inventions will be examined.

Judging from the specific modes described in claims, the claims of this international application are considered to define the following inventions: the invention of claims [1, 2]; the invention of claim [3]; the invention of claims [4-6]; the invention of claim [7]; the invention of claims [8, 9, 11, 13]; the invention of claim [10]; and the invention of claim [12]. Meanwhile, claims [3] and [7] are respectively a mere combination of a well-known art with the features defined in claims [1, 2], and the feature described in claim [10] is common to claims [10] and [12].

Consequently, this international application is considered to contain four groups of inventions: the invention of claims [1-3, 7]; the invention of claims [4-6]; the invention of claims [8, 9, 11, 13]; and the invention of claims [10, 12].